

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 02657 181617Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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R 181603Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7182
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GE, IT
SUBJECT: EAST GERMAN GREETINGS TO BERLINGUER

1. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND CARRIED ON ITS FRONT PAGE APRIL 13 A MESSAGE FROM SED PARTY CHIEF HONECKER TO ENRICO BERLINGUER. THE MESSAGE, A PERSONAL ONE FROM HONECKER, CONVEYS WARM, BROTHERLY GREETINGS FROM HONECKER TO BERLINGUER, ASSURING BERLINGUER OF STEADFAST AND UNBREAKABLE SOLIDARITY. IT NOTES THAT THIS IS A CRITICAL PERIOD IN THE DEFENSE OF DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND REPUBLICAN ORDER IN ITALY AGAINST THE ESCALATION OF TERROR AND THE FORCES OF REACTION.
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 02657 181617Z

2. NO SPECIFIC OCCASION IS GIVEN FOR SENDING THE MESSAGE. CURIOUSLY HONECKER USES NONE OF HIS TITLES (INCLUDING HEAD OF THE SED) AND IS CAREFUL NOT TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE PARTY (ALTHOUGH HE DOES SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SED AND THE WORKING PARTY OF THE GDR.

3. COMMENT: IT IS INTRIGUING TO SPECULATE THAT HONECKER'S FAILURE TO EMPLOY HIS PARTY TITLE INDICATES THAT THE SED POLITBURO DID NOT FULLY ENDORSE THE MESSAGE TO BERLINGUER. THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION, WHICH SURFACES FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE WEST GERMAN PRESS, THAT THERE ARE SPLITS WITHIN THE SED POLITBURO ON THE EURO-COMMUNISM ISSUE. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY HOWEVER THAT THERE IS A DIVISION ON THIS

POINT. DESPITE WHAT MUST BE SOME DOCTRINAL DIFFERENCES, THE GDR HAS MAINTAINED SEEMINGLY GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE CPI AND BERLINGUER IS TREATED IN A POSITIVE MANNER BY THE EAST GERMAN PRESS. AS RECENTLY AS FEBRUARY 1978, HONECKER AND POLITBURO MEMBER HERMANN AXEN MET WITH A DELEGATION OF THE PCI LED BY GIAN CARLO PAJETTA, MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SECRETARIAT, AND SORGIO SEGRE, DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT (PRESUMABLY AXEN'S OPPOSITE NUMBER). THE TWO SIDES REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED THEIR READINESS TO "DEEPEN FURTHER THE BROTHERLY RELATIONS OF THE TWO PARTIES." BOLEN

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Message Attributes

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